

THE EVENING STAR.

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CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

In order to avoid delay, on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editor or Business Department, according to tenor or purpose.

Attorney General Olney has spared a little time from his defense of the odious income-tax law to make a soundly sensible decision in regard to the presence of troops in New Orleans during the levee war. The New Orleans authorities, having taken no steps themselves beyond the ordinary and totally inadequate precautions to quell the riots, appealed to the government for aid. In the absence of the President, Mr. Olney decided without further consultation that the federal troops could not be sent until the state had exhausted all her resources to keep the peace. The reports so far received indicate that the state had practically done nothing, and the refusal for the present of the Attorney General to act to be commended. There is no question that the situation at New Orleans was very serious, and the governor had apparently been negligent. To appeal to the President for aid was a natural thing to do, but it was a too obvious attempt to shift the responsibility for the ordering of troops upon the shoulders of the national administration. When New Orleans and Louisiana have made no effort to check the rioting and to punish the rioters and have failed, the application to the United States for assistance should be renewed.

In the absence of any explanation from the Cuban authorities of the action of the Spanish war ship in firing at the United States mail steamer, there is an excellent ground for believing that there has been a violation of international courtesy. According to the captain and passengers of the vessel, she was considerably beyond the three-mile limit, within which she might be considered as being subject to the surveillance of the Cuban government. This last condition, however, would prevail only under a state of war, but the United States is not now officially cognizant of the existence of any strife in Cuba. It is at peace with Spain and does not know Cuba as being in a state of belligerence. From all the circumstances it would appear as though the act were that of a lastly, inconsiderate commander who, imagining the Alliance to be a possible filibuster, undertook to stop her by firing at her blank and then solid shots. The latter fortunately did no damage, but this does not affect the question in point as to whether the Spanish government, through its agents, has not inadvertently or otherwise insulted the flag and endangered the Alliance by carrying of international mails. It is altogether probable that when all the facts have been laid before both governments an ample apology will be made by Spain for what appears to have been a stupid blunder.

By exposing an absurdity in the statutes, a Louisiana judge, while showing his disgust for prize fighting, has been forced to decide that there is nothing in the law to prevent the Olympic Club of New Orleans from holding exhibitions and conducting so-called championship contests. This opinion settles a case that has been pending for over a year and permits the club to resume its contests. The court concluded that the act of 1890, which was supposed to be designed to punish prize-fighting in the state of Louisiana, virtually permits it by the uncertainty of its terms. He characterized the statute as a piece of legislative fraud and mendacity, and said that it practically makes prize-fighting a legitimate business and a domestic industry. He found that a prize fight is a glove contest without gloves, and that a glove contest is a prize fight with gloves; that in each case there is a duel with fists, for a prize; in each there is manning and blood-letting, and in each brutality and danger to life and limb. Therefore he declared that the statute which prohibited prize-fighting while permitting glove contests is a mockery and he set it aside as useless. This decision will go far towards clearing the legal atmosphere in this matter. A bad statute has been denounced by a fearless judge and perhaps an effective law will now take its place.

It would be hard on the colons who recently investigated the gas question for the Senate if it should turn out that the new illuminant called "acetylene" can really be made, ready to be, for about five cents a thousand cubic feet. After months of consideration the Senate District committee came to the conclusion at the very end of the session that gas cannot profitably be manufactured in the District for less than \$1.25 a thousand. The preliminary reports from the new gas, which is not a new gas at all, but an old friend with new processes of manufacture, show, it is said, that it is in some respects superior to coal or oil gas, being of higher illuminating power and producing only about one-half the heat. The gas, it is reported, may be liquefied and sold in cans ready to be attached to the supply pipe. Perhaps the gas industry is about to be revolutionized.

In demonstrating the power of organization by labor the Springfield Republican calls attention to the fact that although the labor unions of New York state in 1894 had a combined membership of but 155,363, a small proportion only of the working people in that commonwealth, yet the unions combined have a considerable political influence. "And when they strike," continues the Republican, "they make the industrial world stand on its head." The industrial world did seem to turn a good many somersaults and to do a good deal of revolutionary acrobatics in the vicinity of Brooklyn last winter when a few of the unions went on a strike because with good reason they were not wholly pleased with the management of the local street car companies. Indeed it is to be feared that a large part of the industrial world of Brooklyn is standing on its head yet, and that the labor organizations of the City of "Churches have not succeeded in getting their feet on solid ground to this day. Combined labor will be a greater political factor when it begins to realize that the value of a strike is not in proportion to the frequency of such demonstrations, becoming more effective with each recurrence. On the other hand, like any other powerful, radical remedy, it loses its force with each repetition of the dose. Physicians testify that medicine loses its power for good as the constitution becomes accustomed to its use. Were the more difficult strikes made a matter of more difficulty and responsibility there would be fewer of these exhibitions, which almost invariably fail to produce the desired result. The customary fleet of strike literature that has followed the Brooklyn troubles, which is always to be expected after each of these disturbances, brings to hand a great mass of figures to show the loss to the state, the community and the individual by reason of these almost useless struggles. The fiscal cost of the Brooklyn strike, estimated in the millions, its real cost, however, will probably never be known, for there will continue to be suffering among the men

who participated and their families for many months to come, and in addition to the purely financial cost of the strike there is to be counted the great injury done to the children of the misguided men who lost their positions by following the bad advice of their leaders. The loss of the maintaining salary of the head of the family results in throwing these children out of school and upon the streets in an effort to contribute to the support of the household. There they may learn to be self-reliant men and women, but the chances are far greater that they will yield to the other influences that lead to lower grades of life.

So it is a moral as much an economic question that is yet to be answered when the query is put: Does it pay to strike? There is no doubt of the value of organization among all classes of laboring men; trades unions are as necessary as incorporations of capital. Men of common pursuits, instincts and tastes banded together under good leadership will improve themselves as surely as there is the natural tendency in man to better his condition, but with bad leaders and with mistaken notions of the functions of organization the workings of America cannot help themselves. It would seem to be true that few of the managers of strikes ever realize the tremendous responsibility that rests with them when they begin to consider the advisability of ordering out their followers. They are in a sense more responsible than the leader of a political revolution, for the latter attracts to his standard at first only the disaffected elements of society, and history shows that these men who flock to the first call of rebellion have little to lose and all to gain from success. On the other hand, the participants in a strike, which is a revolution against a corporation or an employer, are necessarily in a position to lose their all by failure and to gain nothing except in the rarest cases. The chances are decidedly against the striker. A strike is a lottery in which the tickets are expensive, and which has no capital prizes.

Some valuable posthumous papers of the late lamented Fifty-third Congress have just been discovered and printed, forming an interesting appendix to the records of that unique body. Number 69 of volume 27 of the Congressional Record, dated five days after the expiration of the session, has just been received. It is exceptionally thrilling, containing the final chapters of several half-rational serial stories that have been running through the pages all winter. One writer, who signs himself "Hon. Joseph D. Sayers of Texas," has two whole pages of figures designed to show that the budgets have been reduced under democratic rule. This is supposed to be a speech that was delivered on March 4, as is also the next paper, written by "Hon. D. B. Henderson of Iowa," two pages and a half in length, intended to show that the appropriations were really increased under the democratic rule. Next follow four pages of discourse by "Hon. James C. McDearmon of Tennessee," on the currency, and another of the same length by "Hon. George W. Brown of Virginia," on the tariff. The index of the rest of this priceless relic contains such spell-binding names and topics as these: Madison, the late Senator Calhoun; Tate on ditto; Springer on the Monetary Conference; Boatner on the Pacific Railroad; Cooper (Ind.) on Pensions; Grosvenor on Money; and on the Tennessee Centennial; and Pettigrew on the Hawaiian Cable. The gem of the lot is a delicate little brochure by Cooper (Ind.) on the Tariff, in which that statesman dissects the entire subject in thirty-two brief lines. As a "left-over" proof sheet this issue of the Record is a success.

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Seventy-four artisans labored today on the city post-office building in a gallant effort to discredit the Star's original estimate that the building will probably be completed by August 17, 1896. They do not appear to be equal to the task.

There are many readers of the press who would be just as well pleased if the ambition of the Goulds and Vanderbilts to keep their private affairs out of the newspapers could be gratified.

It will not be his fault if the American young man with money in the course of time makes a practice of marrying only European young women with ancestry.

Mr. Sibley is likely to discover that it is much easier to organize a presidential circus than it is to pay the freight.

Somebody has a brilliant opening for a display of originality in apologizing for the 33rd Congress.

Mayor Strong's little luncheons during office hours consist of hot tea and cold shoulder.

SHOOTING STARS.

Sincere.

In one respect some statesmen

Have much improved their ways:

When they say "I'm out of politics"

They mean it, nowadays.

Consideration.

"I understand the critics showed you

poems a great deal of consideration," said

the young woman.

"Why, they didn't say a word about

them," replied the young man.

"That's what I meant."

Sometimes," said Uncle Eben, "when

er man tells you he's discouraged he don't

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The Season of Self Denial.

"My dear," said Mrs. Dressinby to her

husband, "you must not find fault with the

table. This is Lent, you know, and we must

deny ourselves a great many things."

"This is so," replied her husband, "I'd

forgot about it, but I suppose you'll have

to have 'dat Easter bonnet as usual."

Worth the Experiment.

If hypnotism really does

What it is said to do,

Let's try the thing on Congress once

And pass a bill or two.

Too Industrious.

"I don't know what's going to become of

us," said the woman who talks about her

family troubles. "John doesn't seem to get

along the way he used to."

"Why, he never seems to be idle."

"I should say not. He's got a

political boom on his hands, and he's full

of the Napoleon fan, and is learning Trilby

by heart, and belongs to a debating society.

If he gets any busier than he is, I'm afraid

we'll come pretty near starving."

Standard Criticism.

The girls who patronized the play

in days gone by were wont to say,

"That leading man—the hero fine—

Has manners that are just divine."

But now, when she has been to see

in the millions, its real cost, however,

probably never be known, for there will

continue to be suffering among the men

who participated and their families for

many months to come, and in addition to

the purely financial cost of the strike there

is to be counted the great injury done to

the children of the misguided men who

lost their positions by following the bad

advice of their leaders. The loss of the

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results in throwing these children out of

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